

# YACHTING ON THE CHEAP

# YOUNG SUN

BY DAVID GRIFFITHS

**T**HE yachting champions of tomorrow are about to engage in a battle for supremacy of Port Phillip Bay.

For today will see the start of the fortieth Australian 12 ft. cadet dinghy

championship, the Lord Stonehaven Cup.

The championship disproves the claim that is sometimes made that yachting is for the rich, because each cadet competing has paid only a nominal sum to join a yachting club.

## Any walk

As a member of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron's cadet dinghy committee, Mr David Simmons, said: "Yachting is not only

a rich man's sport.

"We take cadets from any walk of life and make them proficient yachtsmen."

Mr Simmons says that for every cruiser or racer owned by a "rich" man there has to be a crew of four or five.

The championship is conducted by the Royal Brighton Yacht Club and runs until January 6.

There are 12 dinghies in the championship: three four-yacht teams

from SA, Tasmania and Victoria.

All races will start at 2.15 p.m., about one-and-a-half miles off Brighton.

## Three in crew

The 12ft. dinghies are of clinker construction, with gaff rig and three sails — main, jib and spinnaker.

The dinghies have crews of three: the skipper, main and forward hands.

The skipper is the

oldest and most experienced member of the crew.

The cadet dinghies are traditional training yachts.

Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron has 18 cadet dinghies, owned and maintained by senior members of the club.

"To buy a dinghy today would cost about \$1000," says Mr Simmons. He says it costs the club about \$3000 annually to maintain

the dinghies.

Cadets are taken on generally between the ages of 12 and 15. At the age of 19 they become junior members and at 21 senior members.

Mr Simmons says that yacht owners are eager to take on former cadets as crew.

## Tradehouse

Cadets at the Royal Melbourne pay only \$4 a year membership fee. And the club is looking for new cadet members.

"All they have to do is ring me on 58-4842," said Mr Simmons.

However, he says that girls need not apply.

"It's tradition that the royal yacht clubs are men's clubs only," he says.

The cadets usually sail, weather permitting, each Saturday and Sunday during the season. "This runs from about the first week after the football

Grand Final till Easter," said Mr Simmons.

"We try to get cadets in a boat the first day they are with us.

"It's a matter of putting them out to sea to learn the hard way."

Mr Simmons says there are always two patrol boats out when the cadets sail.

## Swim test

In addition, cadets are not admitted to the club until they pass a swimming test of 50 yards with life jacket.

Parents may use club facilities when they come to see their sons sail.

Royal Brighton Yacht Club has a similar cadet training scheme to Royal Melbourne.

"Most youngsters give up the sport they played at school when they leave it," said Mr Simmons, "but, with yachting, a boy can carry it through until he is an old man."